

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1390

6
7 S.P. 516

In Senate, April 25, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Clark of Cumberland.

11 Cosponsored by Senator Bustin of Kennebec, Representative Nadeau of
Lewiston and Senator Gill of Cumberland.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Help Improve the Quality of Child
18 Care in Maine.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶28-A is
23 enacted to read:

24 (28-A) Human Services: Child Care Expenses 22MRSA§5312
25 Child Care Advisory Only
26 Committee

27 Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5311 is enacted to read:

28 §5311. Office of Child Care Coordination

29 1. Establishment. There is established, within
30 the Bureau of Social Services, the Office of Child
31 Care Coordination.

32 2. Powers and duties. The office shall have the
33 following powers and duties:

- 1 A. Maintain an inventory of child care informa-
2 tion;
- 3 B. Provide public education on becoming better
4 consumers of child care;
- 5 C. Evaluate prospective grantees for child care
6 funding grants in consultation with the Division
7 of Purchased and Support Service;
- 8 D. Evaluate funding methods of child care;
- 9 E. Coordinate an ongoing review of all child
10 care licensing rules;
- 11 F. Provide technical assistance to public and
12 private sector employers, school systems and com-
13 munity groups concerning child care, flexible
14 benefits and work schedules;
- 15 G. Coordinate the development of a training sys-
16 tem for child care providers;
- 17 H. Develop incentives for employer involvement
18 in child care; and
- 19 I. Promote cooperative relationships between
20 public health organizations and child care pro-
21 grams.

22 Sec. 3. 22 M RSA §5312 is enacted to read:

23 §5312. Child Care Advisory Committee

24 1. Establishment. The Child Care Advisory Com-
25 mittee, as established by Title 5, section 12004,
26 subsection 10, shall consist of 11 members to be ap-
27 pointed by the Commissioner of Human Services. Ap-
28 pointments shall be made so that members on the com-
29 mittee reflect diverse interests, possess a knowledge
30 of child care and be representative of all geographic
31 regions of the State.

32 2. Compensation. Members of the committee shall
33 be compensated in accordance with Title 5, chapter
34 379.

- 1 3. Powers and duties. The committee shall:
2 A. Monitor the Office of Child Care Coordina-
3 tion; and
4 B. Make recommendations to the commissioner on
5 child care policy.

6 Sec. 4. Appropriation. The following funds are
7 appropriated from the Bureau of Social Services Fund
8 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

9 1986-87

10 HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

11	Office of Child Care Coordina-	
12	tion	
13	Positions	(3)
14	Personal Services	\$ 65,000
15	All Other	180,000
16	Funds to be used for	
17	public education	
18	projects.	
19	Child Care Advisory Committee	
20	All Other	1,500
21	Child Care Licensing Unit	
22	Positions	(3)
23	Personal Services	53,000
24	All Other	<u>3,000</u>
25	Provides for addi-	
26	tional licensing po-	
27	sitions.	
28	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL	\$302,500

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 There is a need for a focused coordinated effort
3 to address child care issues in Maine. Maine's child
4 care system must be responsive to the needs of its
5 citizens and meet these critical needs through coordi-
6 nation of existing services and the development of
7 additional child care services. An Office of Child
8 Care Coordination and a Child Care Advisory Committee
9 shall be established to meet this need.

10 The responsibilities of the office include:

11 1. Maintaining an inventory of child care infor-
12 mation;

13 2. Providing public education on becoming better
14 consumers of child care;

15 3. Evaluating prospective grantees for child
16 care funding grants in consultation with the Division
17 of Purchased and Support Services;

18 4. Evaluating funding methods of child care;

19 5. Coordinating an ongoing review of all child
20 care licensing rules;

21 6. Providing technical assistance to public and
22 private sector employers, school systems and communi-
23 ty groups concerning child care, flexible benefits
24 and work schedules;

25 7. Coordinating the development of a training
26 system for child care providers;

27 8. Developing incentives for employer involve-
28 ment in child care; and

29 9. Promoting cooperative relationships between
30 public health organizations and child care programs.

31 The purpose of the Child Care Advisory Committee
32 shall be to monitor the Office of Child Care Coordi-
33 nation and to make recommendations to the commission-
34 er on child care policy. It shall be comprised of 11
35 members with diverse interests and knowledge of child

1 care and be representative of all geographic regions
2 of the State.

3 The Department of Human Services Child Care Li-
4 censing Unit is insufficient to adequately monitor
5 Maine's existing and increasing numbers of licensed
6 and registered child care facilities. Adequate li-
7 censing capability is essential to quality control in
8 child care and the State's role in this area becomes
9 more critical as the child care system expands.

10 The Department of Human Services Child Care Li-
11 censing Unit consists of 4 licensing workers and a
12 supervisor. The duties of the licensing workers con-
13 sist of annual inspections and reviews of child care
14 centers and family day care homes, assisting individ-
15 uals wishing to open child care facilities, register-
16 ing day care homes and investigating all complaints
17 about licensed and unlicensed child care facilities.

18 There are currently close to 1,200 licensed and
19 registered child care centers and family day care
20 homes in Maine. Each licensing worker has a caseload
21 of over 300 facilities in a state which covers 31,904
22 square miles. There is clearly more work and more
23 territory than the present staff can adequately cover
24 in order to ensure that facilities maintain the mini-
25 mum level of quality required by state statutes. Li-
26 censing workers are over-burdened and frustrated.
27 Research has shown that overwork and frustration can
28 lead to worker burnout.

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